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SENT TO: Amembassy PARIS, TOPOL 1406

DELIVER TO PERKINS BY 9:00 A.M. February 14.

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Origin

Info:

You are authorized make statement re Saud visit to NAC private session along following lines. In this connection you may also wish refer communique issued February 9.

King Saud departed February 9 after what US considers successful series talks with President and other USG leaders. Full assessment impact of visit must await Saud's talks with Arab leaders on his return and subsequent comment in area.

Saud agreed extension US rights at Dhahran Airfield on basis continuation of agreement to sell arms and increase training services originally established in 1951. Exact details final agreement still being discussed. Some economic measures may develop related to Dhahran area such as improvement Dammam port.

President explained purpose of his recent proposal related to Middle East. Saud expressed satisfaction and made favorable public statements to press thereon. Ultimate Saudi attitude will of course depend on development of program but US hopes that minimum Saud favorable initial reaction will help diminish Arab opposition to US endeavors strengthen Middle East against Communist threat.

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Drafted by: NEA/NE:DDNewsom:db 2-13-57

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: Joseph J. Wolf

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RA - Mr. Knox

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Saud brought views of leaders of Syria, Jordan and Egypt regarding various problems. US made clear desire for friendly relations with all countries in area and explained point of view with respect currently outstanding problems between US and Egypt as well as US apprehension over tensions in Middle East.

Certain continuing problems, such as Buraimi, Farsi and Arabi, Gulf of Aqaba, Gaza, Suez Canal, and Yemen, were also discussed. King took standard Arab point of view on most issues but left little doubt that he recognized Communist threat in area.

Saudis and Iraqis on their initiative made arrangements for meeting Saud and Abdul Ilah. All reports this meeting indicated it was successful. Saud made unprecedented move by returning call to Crown Prince's hotel. Both parties seemed genuinely pleased results these conversations.

In conclusion US recognizes Saud's position leads him to seek moderating role and believes his greater understanding fundamental US hopes and objectives will assist him to this end.

Dulles

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